MR. K. I. JOSEPH (*Minachil* cum *Devicolam*): I also strongly support the motion and protest against the abolition of this department.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The question about the Archaeological Department was considered by Government in 1099, and in that year, the Superintendent of Archaeology was required to report what portion of the work that had been taken up by him had been done and what remained to be done. He submitted a report which showed that there were about 120 important inscriptions and 150 others, unimportant, damaged, incomplete or fragmentary. He proposed to examine some of the former and print them, as also the bare texts of the latter for future use. When Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar was entertained, the idea was that the term of his appointment was for a period of three years. He was therefore asked when he expected to complete the work and what portion of the work remained. This was in November 1924. He then replied that he expected to complete the work by the end of the year 1100. The term of Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar's appointment is to expire on the 3rd Kanni 1101. However, in submitting the budget estimate for 1101, he said that the work could not be completed within the year and recommended that it may be continued for six months in 1101. This recommendation was sanctioned by the Government, and accordingly, the necessary provision was made in the budget for the purpose. Now that the members on the other side of the House seem to be of opinion that it is necessary to continue the work, the question will again be considered by Government.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): May I know whether the present incumbent has reported to the effect that there is no more archaeological work to be done in Travancore?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. C. P. THOMAS (*Nominated*): Has any opinion of any archæological expert outside Travancore been obtained about the scope for further work?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): It has not been done.

MR. CHANGANACHERY K. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI (*Quilon*). Has the Superintendent of Archæology reported that there is no need to continue the department after Makarom 1101 and that the whole work is completed?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): The work which Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar has taken up will be completed by that time.

MR P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Has he said in so many words that there is no more work to be done in the field of archæology in Travancore?

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): He has not said so.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, all that I gather from the learned Chief Secretary is to the effect that Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar, who is now in charge of the department, has collected certain inscriptions, and seems to have reported to Government that the work would be over, in the matter of editing those inscriptions, by Makaram. It does not follow there from that there is nothing more to be done in the field of Archaelogy in the State. Evidently, the Government has misundertood the report of the Superintendent of Archaeology. That, I am submitting, is not a justification for the discontinuance of the work of archaeology in the State. My submission is that, even if Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar makes a statement that he cannot any further go on with the work of archaeology in Travancore, another person should be found by Government to carry on the work of epigraphy in the State. It is a matter we can hardly afford to lose. For the development of the various questions touching the State, for tracing its history as far as possible backwards, the assistance of an archaeologist is indispensable. So, I am of opinion that this motion will have to be pressed, and I press it.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I did not mean to say that there is no more work to be done in the field of archaeology in Travancore. But when Mr. Ramanatha Aiyar was asked to report what amount of the work that he had taken up had been done, and what remained to be done, he said that his work would be completed by the end of Makaram. I did not say that the department should be discontinued after Makaram 1101. Whether the department should be continued after Makaram is one which the Government will have to consider.

The motion was put to the vote and declared carried.

Motions 294 to 299.

The following motions were not moved :—

MR. G. RAMAN MENON :

294. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 7,299 for Personal Assistant, clerks, etc., in the Co-operative Department by Rs. 480.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON :

295. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 9,486 for Inspectors by Rs. 1,440.

MR. A. K. PILLAI :

296. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,900 for Registrar of Co-operative Societies by Re. 1.

MR. K. K. THOMAS :

297. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,900 for Registrar of Co-operative Societies by Rs. 100.

MR. N. KUMARAN :

298. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 40,900 for Registrar of Co-operative Societies by Rs. 100

MR G. PARAMESVARAN PILLAI :

299. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,100 for Development Board by Rs. 100.

PRESIDENT: I now put to the vote of the House Demand XIX—Scientific and Miscellaneous Departments—Rs. 69,000 *minus* Rs. 10.

The motion was carried and the grant was made.

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DEMAND XX.—PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I move for a grant not exceeding Rs. 25·36 lakhs under Demand XX Public Works Department.

Motion 300.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I am not particular about moving this motion. But, as I am told that the official member has an important statement to make in regard to this matter, I beg to move the following motion:

300. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,855 for Establishment by Rs. 100.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Is the motion in order. Mr. Raman Menon was observing that it was to enable the official member to speak that he was moving it.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): What does he mean by saying, "I am not particular in moving the motion?"

PRESIDENT: Are you moving it, Mr. Raman Menon?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I move the motion for I was told that some important statement is to be made by the official member. So, in order to have the benefit of it, I move the motion. As my friends are not in favour of it, I withdraw it.

PRESIDENT: Are you moving and then withdrawing it?

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): As I had already moved the motion, I should like to withdraw it.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Shall I reply, Sir?

PRESIDENT: You have got a right to reply.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): There is no motion before the House. The mover said he was moving and withdrawing the motion.

PRESIDENT: If the motion is moved, the Government Bench has a right to make a statement.

MR. K. K. THOMAS (*Kottayam*): I understand that he has withdrawn the motion.

PRESIDENT: Once he has moved the motion, the Government Bench has a right.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I have very little to say on this motion. The clerical establishment before the re-organisation of 1912 consisted of 39 clerks. The strength was reduced to 34 in the re-organisation of 1912. In the re-organisation of 1922, it has been further reduced and it is now 29. No further reduction is possible. I can give several reasons which have contributed to the growth of the work in the office since then and this has been adverted to in the P. W. D. Annual Report for 1099. But I do not wish to detain the Council by detailing them as they are anxious to go to other subjects. I need only say it is not possible to retrench any more clerks from the office establishment.

MR. G. RAMAN MENON (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

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Motion 301.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): I beg to move the following motion:

301. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 27,855 under Establishment by Rs. 100.

My object is to discuss the imposition of toll on the Balamore Road in the Kodayar Division.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): I rise to a point of order. The reduction proposed by the member is on the grant for the non-gazetted establishment, ministerial, technical, and menial in the Chief Engineer's Office.

PRESIDENT: What has the toll got to do with the grant for ministerial establishment, Mr. Sivatanu Pillai?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): Inasmuch as the Chief Engineer alone has got power to levy the toll, I thought it might be put under this item.

PRESIDENT: But toll has nothing to do with establishment. Will you kindly turn to the item in the budget that you are making the motion on?

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*): If it is so, I do not move.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

Motion 302.

The following motion was not moved:

MR. T KUMARA PILLAI:

302. To reduce the allotment of Rs. 2,000 for office expenses and miscellaneous by Rs. 500

Motion 303.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): I beg to move the following motion:

303. To omit the allotment of Rs. 300 for the revision of the P.W.D. Code.

Referring to page 157 of the draft budget, it will be seen that there is a foot-note with an asterisk mark which explains that provision is made for payment of the Code Revision Officer's salary for Karkatakam 1100 and to meet charges in connection with printing the Code, etc. I do not know whether there is an officer known as the Code Revision Officer. If it is only a departmental matter and if the officer belonging to the Department is put in charge of the work of revising the Code, his ordinary salary is quite sufficient to enable him to do the work in connection with the revision of the Code. How the extra allowance of Rs. 300 is due to that officer is what I fail to understand. I therefore make this motion for the acceptance of the House.

MR. K. V. NATESA AIYAR (*Chief Engineer*): Sir, I oppose the motion. The present P. W. D. Code was issued in the year 1912; but the Code of 1912 was not a revised Code but was only a reprint embodying only formal correction slips. Since then and prior to that year,

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